UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/023,499	12/17/2001	Masahiko Satoh	G0126.0214/P214	4068

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EXAMINER
WILLIAMS, JEFFERY L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2137	

DATE MAILED: 03/08/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>07 December 2005</u>.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL.**   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle,* 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-6 and 8-14</u> is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-6 and 8-14</u> is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on <u>17 December 2001</u> is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☒ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____ .

1   **DETAILED ACTION**

2

3   This action is in response to the communication filed on 12/7/2005.

4

5   Claims 1 – 6, and 8 – 14 are pending.

6

7   All objections and rejections not set forth below have been withdrawn.

8

9

10   *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

11

12   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

13   obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

14   (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
15   forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
16   the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
17   invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
18   Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.
19
20   **Claims 1 – 6, and 8 – 14 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being**

21   **unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Wang,**

22   **"Security Control for Computer Power Supply Subsystem", U.S. Patent 6,041,413.**

23

24   Regarding claim 1, the Applicant's Admitted Prior Art discloses a computer (fig.

25   1). The computer is battery operated (fig. 1), comprising a battery (fig. 1:2), a

26   keyboard/power supply controller (fig. 1:4), a DC/DC converter (fig. 1:6), and main body

1   operation units operated through the DC/DC converter (fig. 1:7,8,9). The Applicant's

2   Admitted Prior Art (fig. 1) does not display a specific method of computer operation.

3   Wang teaches a security method for operation within a computer. Wang teaches

4   that computers can become damaged from repeated and unauthorized attempts to

5   power-on a computer. Thus, it is important to apply to computers a secure method of

6   gaining system access to main system resources, wherein the method comprises the

7   examination of a supplied password, and only after positive authorization should the

8   complete system be powered on (Wang, Abstract; col. 1, lines 5-33; col. 3, lines 8-40).

9   It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to apply the

10 teachings of Wang within the computer of the Applicant's Admitted Prior Art. This would

11 have been obvious, because one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated

12 to protect the computer from damages resulting from repeated and unauthorized

13 attempts to power-up the computer.

14   Thus the combination of the Applicant's Admitted Prior Art and Wang discloses:

15   *registering a password as a registered password* (Wang, col. 3, lines 28-31);

16   *keeping the keyboard/power supply controller in a provisional state before the*

17 *power is supplied to the main body operation units with the main body operation units*

18 *kept inactive through the DC/DC converter* (AAPA, fig. 1, elem. 4; Wang, fig. 2; col. 1,

19 lines 6-9, 24-32; col. 3, lines 35-40). Herein the combination of the Applicant's Admitted

20 Prior Art and Wang discloses a "provisional state", wherein before the power supply is

21 switched on and enabling the provision of a steady or stabilized supply of all the

1　　necessary DC powers (AAPA, fig. 1, elem. 6) to the main system components, the main

2　　body operation units are kept inactive.

3　　　　*performing user authentication in the provisional state by comparing and*

4　　*checking an input password with the registered password by the keyboard/power supply*

5　　*controller* (Wang, col. 3, lines 33-35; fig. 2);

6　　　　*and starting the supply of power to the main body operation units on detecting*

7　　*coincidence between the input password and the registered password* (Wang, col. 3,

8　　lines 35-40).

9

10　　　　Regarding claim 2, the combination of the Applicant's Admitted Prior Art and

11　　Wang discloses:

12　　　　*suspending the supply of power to the main body operation units on detecting*

13　　*incoincidence between the input password and the registered password* (Wang, col. 5,

14　　lines 43, 44);

15

16　　　　Regarding claim 3, the combination of the Applicant's Admitted Prior Art and

17　　Wang discloses:

18　　　　*wherein the password is compared and checked within a predetermined period of*

19　　*time* (Wang, col. 5, lines 9-18; col. 7, line 61 – col. 8, line 7). Wang discloses that the

20　　system compares and checks the password at the time the user depressed the keys on

21　　the keyboard. Alternatively, the system compares and checks the password upon

1   receiving a signifying key signal. Such methods constitute comparing and checking a

2   password within a predetermined period of time.

3

4   Regarding claim 4, the combination of the Applicant's Admitted Prior Art and

5   Wang discloses:

6   *wherein when the password consists of more than one-digit symbol, the input*

7   *password is compared and checked with the registered password digit by digit* (Wang,

8   col. 3, lines 31-36; col. 5, lines 9-15). Wang discloses that the user entered password

9   symbols are sent to a first-in first-out buffer. The password comparing unit is coupled to

10   the first-in first-out buffer, thus receiving each symbol in its respective order from the

11   first-in first-out buffer and comparing the received symbol to the password.

12

13   Regarding claim 5, it is the apparatus employed in the method of claim 1, and it

14   is rejected, at least, for the same reasons. Furthermore, the combination of the

15   Applicant's Admitted Prior Art and Wang discloses:

16   *storage means for storing the registered password* (Wang, col. 3, lines 28-31);

17   *a DC/DC converter for supplying power from the battery to the main body*

18   *operation units in the computer only when coincidence is detected between the input*

19   *password and the registered password* (Wang, col. 1, lines 6-9, 24-32; col. 3, lines 35-

20   40; AAPA, fig. 1, elem. 6). Herein, the combination of the Applicant's Admitted Prior Art

21   and Wang discloses that a DC/DC converter is employed by a computer to deliver a

1   stabilized supply of power to the main body operation units, the converter capable of

2   deriving power from a battery.

3   *and control means for controlling said power supplying means to start power*

4   *supply from the battery to the main body operation units through the DC/DC converter*

5   *when the input password is matched with the registered password* (Wang, col. 3, lines

6   35-40; AAPA fig. 1, elem. 6), *and controlling said power supplying means to suspend*

7   *power supply to the main body operation units when the input password is not matched*

8   *with the registered password* (Wang, col. 5, lines 43, 44).

9

10   Regarding claim 6, the combination of the Applicant's Admitted Prior Art and

11   Wang discloses:

12   *wherein said control means controls said power supplying means to start or*

13   *suspend power supply to the main body operation units including a display, a central*

14   *processing unit and a memory* (Wang, col. 3, lines 35-40; col. 5, lines 43, 44; AAPA fig.

15   1, elems. 7,8,9).

16

17   Regarding claim 8, it is the medium and program employing in the method of

18   claim 1, and it is rejected, at least, for the same reasons. Furthermore, the combination

19   of the Applicant's Admitted Prior Art and Wang discloses:

20   *keeping the keyboard/power supply controller into a provisional state before the*

21   *power is supplied from the battery to the main body operation units with the main body*

22   *operation units kept inactive through the DC/DC converter* (AAPA, fig. 1, elem. 4; Wang,

1   fig. 2; col. 1, lines 6-9, 24-32; col. 3, lines 35-40). Herein the combination of the

2   Applicant's Admitted Prior Art and Wang discloses a "provisional state", wherein before

3   the power supply is switched on and enabling the provision of a steady or stabilized

4   supply of all the necessary DC powers (AAPA, fig. 1, elem. 6) to the main system

5   components, the main body operation units are kept inactive. Furthermore, the

6   combination of the Applicant's Admitted Prior Art and Wang shows that power can be

7   provided to the DC/DC converter from a battery.

8   *and starting the supply of power from the battery to the main body operation units*

9   *through the DC/DC converter on detecting coincidence between the input password and*

10   *the registered password* (Wang, col. 3, lines 35-40).

11

12   Regarding claim 9, the combination of the Applicant's Admitted Prior Art and

13   Wang discloses:

14   *suspending the supply of power from the battery to the main body operation units*

15   *through the DC/DC converter on detecting incoincidence between the input password*

16   *and the registered password* (Wang, col. 5, lines 43, 44);

17

18   Regarding claim 10, the combination of the Applicant's Admitted Prior Art and

19   Wang discloses:

20   *wherein said program storage medium stores a program for letting the computer*

21   *further execute a processing step of comparing and checking the passwords within a*

22   *fixed period of time, and a processing step of comparing and checking the passwords*

1   *on a digit basis when each password consists of more than one-digit symbol* (Wang,

2   col. 5, lines 9-18; col. 7, line 61 – col. 8, line 7).

3

4   Regarding claims 11 and 12, they are essentially similar in limitations to claims 8

5   and 9, and are rejected, at least, for the same reasons.

6

7   Regarding claim 13, it is essentially similar to claim 5, and it is rejected, at least,

8   for the same reasons.

9

10   Regarding claim 14, the combination of the Applicant's Admitted Prior Art and

11   Wang discloses:

12   *wherein the control means executes the authentication in the provisional state*

13   (Wang, col. 5, lines 43, 44).

14

15   ***Response to Arguments***

16

17   Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 – 6, 8 - 14 have been considered

18   but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

19

1

2   *Conclusion*

3

4   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to

5   applicant's disclosure.

6

7   See Notice of References Cited.

8

9   Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in

10   this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** See MPEP

11   § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37

12   CFR 1.136(a).

13   A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

14   MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

15   TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

16   mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

17   shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

18   extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

19   the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later

20   than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

1   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

2   examiner should be directed to Jeffery Williams whose telephone number is (571) 272-

3   7965. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00.

4   If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

5   supervisor, Emmanuel Moise can be reached on (571) 272-3865. The fax phone

6   number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-

7   273-8300.

8   Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

9   Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

10   published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

11   Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

12   For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

13   you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

14   Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

15

16

17   Jeffery Williams   EMMANUEL L. MOISE
18   AU: 2137   SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
19
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21